(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets during the last three years is as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Exports (Rs. In crores)
1.	2001-02	9205.63
2.	2002-03	10933.67
3.	2003-04	12765.18

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. the export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets during the current financial year *i.e.* 2004-05 (upto Jan., 2005) is to the tune of Rs. 12123.44 crores compared to Rs. 9847.95 crores during the corresponding period of 2003-04, thus showing an increase of 23.11%.

Closure of textiles mills

917. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) Govemment of India have sanctioned the closure of 66 textile mills so far;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for welfare of workers of those 66 textile mills;

(c) the reasons for approving the closure of those textile mills; and

(d) the reasons for closure of another 65 textile mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to.(d) BIFR/Government sanctioned rehabilitation schemes for the sick subsidiaries of NTC, which includes closure of 66 chronic loss-making mills and revival of 53 revivable mills, as per Techno-Economic Viability Studies conducted by Textile Research Associations. So far 65 out of these 66 unviable mills have been closed and VRS given to 44,159 employees at a cost of Rs. 1,531.94 crores. Interests of workers have been protected by giving a liberal VRS, which provides for enhanced ex-*gratia* if there is no wage revision since 1987/1992.